

GREEN STAMP PROGRAM, ACCREDITATION

213. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) What are the steps a business must follow to become accredited under the Green Stamp program?
- (2) How much has been budgeted for this program from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund?
- (3) What section of the Department assesses the applications?
- (4) What are the steps that the Department follows while assessing an application?
- (5) How many businesses are currently accredited under this scheme?
- (6) How many businesses have applied and are currently awaiting accreditation?
- (7) How often does the accreditation need to be renewed or assessed?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

1. There are three levels of accreditation. The 'One Star' level is the basic entry requirement for the Green Stamp. Businesses must hold all relevant licenses and be operating in a manner that meets all legislative requirements.

For 'Two Star' accreditation, business must meet all of the One Star requirements, plus a minimum number of non-legislative practices (eg, recycling of wastes, using less toxic chemicals, having emergency spill kits on premises, and using more efficient systems that minimise resource use).

The top level of accreditation, 'Three Star', is for business that achieve the Two Star requirements and have an environmental management plan that will help monitor current practices and set objectives or targets for further improvement.
2. In August 1999, a grant of \$50,000 from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund was awarded to develop and refine the project concept and audit process. In August 2000, a grant towards the cost of a promotional poster was awarded. This is a chart of environmental services available to the industry. In August 2000, a grant of \$20,000 towards the cost of running workshops was awarded. In May 2001, a grant of \$121,000 to maintain the program over two years was awarded. This involves the running of the environmental training workshops and publication of the regular Cleaner Times Green Stamp program newsletter.
3. Green Stamp accreditation is managed by the Motor Trades Association.
4. Answered in Question (3).
5. Currently, there is no business accredited under this program, but the Motor Trades Association anticipates that 12 – 20 companies will be ready for accreditation at a launch of the program to be held on 27 November 2002.
6. Approximately 109 people from 87 companies have participated in the Motor Trade Association Green Stamp seminars and workshops held so far. About 30 businesses have expressed an interest in accreditation.
7. Initial accreditation will be current for a period of 18 months. Accreditation will be renewed every 12 months, with those companies being subject to possible spot audits within this period.